GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:393
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2002
PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES
NAWAL KISHORE RAI;RAMJI LAL SUMAN

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of wheat, rice, pulses and edible oils have gone up in the country during 1990-91 to 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the prices of aforesaid essential foodgrains in the open market as well as under Public Distribution System during 1990-91 and 2000-2001; and

(c) the reasons for the increase in the prices of above items and the steps taken to control the prices?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PART (A) TO (C) OF REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.393 FOR 19/04/2002 REGARDING PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

(a) & (b): A statement showing the open market prices of wheat, rice, pulses and edible oils during March 1991 and March 2001 and the Central Issue Price underpublic distribution system of rice and wheat as prevailing in March 1991 and March 2001 are given in Annexures I and II.

(c) : Prices of essential commodities have increased during the last 10 years due to increases in consumption, cost of production, rising transportation cost and hike in Minimum Support Prices.The prices of wheat, rice, pulses, and edible oil have, however, remained more or less steady during the last five year due to good food grain production and liberalization of trade. Apart from certain long-term measures for augmenting the productivity and production of essential commodities in the country, import of items like pulses, edible oils and onion are allowed to augment their availability. Essential commodities like rice, wheat, sugar and kerosene are also being supplied through the outlets of Public Distribution System at below market prices.Stringent actions are being taken against hoarders, black marketeers and others indulging in unfair trade practices under the Essential Commodities Act and Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act by the State/UT Governments. Recently, there has been surplus availability of major essential items. Therefore, these items have been removed from the list of Essential Commodities Act, save for cotton, jute and onion.

ANNEXURE - I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PART (A) & (B) OF REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 393 FOR 19/04/2002

RETAIL PRICES OF WHEAT, RICE, PULSES AND EDIBLE OILS DURING 1990-91 AND 2000-2001

(Rs. Per kg.)

Item/Centre	Retail Prices	
	1990-91	2000-2001
WHEAT		
Delhi	4.00	7.00
Mumbai	4.60	10.25
Chennai	4.40	11.00

RICE

Delhi	5.50	12.00
Mumbai	5.00	12.50
Chennai	4.75	11.00

GRAM (DAL)

Delhi	10.50	22.00
Mumbai	10.00	22.50
Calcutta	9.50	22.00
Chennai	10.00	23.00

TUR (DAL)

Delhi	13.50	25.00
Mumbai	14.00	22.00
Calcutta	14.00	24.00
Chennai	16.00	27.00

VANASPATI

Delhi	36.00	32.00
Mumbai	40.00	34.00
Calcutta	39.00	35.00
Chennai	39.00	35.00

GROUNDNUT OIL

Delhi+	44.00	75.00
Mumbai	38.00	38.00
Calcutta+	50.00	66.00
Chennai	36.00	36.00

MUSTARD OIL

Delhi	28.00	42.00
Mumbai+	36.00	60.00
Calcutta	30.00	38.00

+ : Refined Oil.
Source : State/UT Civil Supplies Departments
Note : Prices not adjusted to inflation

ANNEXURE - II

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PART (A) & (B) OF REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 393 FOR 19/04/2002

CENTRAL ISSUE PRICES OF FOODGRAINS

(Rs. Per quintal)

YEAR		WHEAT	RICE
1990-91		234.00	289.00
2000-2001	i). BPL Families	415.00	565.00
	ii). APL Families	830.00	1130.00

NR : Not Reported